

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 082118

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: CONDITIONAL ENTRY PROGRAM FOR INDOCHINESE
REFUGEES: VIETNAMESE INTERPRETER

REF: (A) HONG KONG 4078; (B) BANGKOK 7846; (C)
KUALA LUMPUR 2269

1. DEPARTMENT NOTES KUALA LUMPUR SO FAR HAS BEEN UNABLE
TO OBTAIN QUALIFIED VIETNAMESE/ENGLISH INTERPRETER. THIS
HAS OCCASIONED SUGGESTIONS THAT AN INTERPRETER BE OBTAINED
IN THAILAND, INCLUDING POSSIBILITY OF TDY FOR EDWARD
ROSE. SINCE A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS ARE CREATED BY BRING-
ING AN INTERPRETER FROM OUTSIDE MALAYSIA AND THE SOLUTION
PROPOSED THROUGH TDY FOR ROSE IS ONLY A TEMPORARY ONE,
WE WOULD URGE EMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR TO FURTHER EXPLORE
THE POSSIBILITY OF QUALIFIED INTERPRETERS AMONG THE RE-
FUGEES THEMSELVES. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF WELL EDUCATED
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FAMILIES AMONG THE REFUGEES AND IT SEEMS MOST LIKELY
THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO FIND QUALIFIED INTERPRETERS
FROM AMONG THIS GROUP.

2. DEPARTMENT NOTES THAT THIS SOURCE WAS USED ALMOST
EXCLUSIVELY IN PROVIDING INTERPRETERS FOR THE EXPANDED
PAROLE PROGRAM IN THAILAND WITH GENERALLY GOOD RESULTS.

WE RECOGNIZE THAT AN INTERPRETER WHO IS ALSO A REFUGEE MAY BE SUBJECT TO CERTAIN TEMPTATIONS BUT WE BELIEVE THAT, IN ANY CASE, LOCAL INTERPRETERS SHOULD BE USED WITH CARE.

3. INDIVIDUALS CHOSEN TO ACT AS INTERPRETERS SHOULD BE RESTRICTED TO THOSE FOUND QUALIFIED FOR INCLUSION UNDER THE U.S. PROGRAM. THESE INDIVIDUALS WOULD THEN BE ASSURED A PLACE IN THE PROGRAM, ASSUMING THEY DISCHARGE THEIR DUTIES FAITHFULLY. THE TEMPTATION TO IMPROPER ACTS IN SUCH A SITUATION IS SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED.

4. SUCH A SOLUTION WOULD BE BOTH LESS EXPENSIVE THAN THE USE OF AMERICAN PERSONNEL AS INTERPRETERS AND WOULD PROVIDE A BETTER LONG-TERM SOLUTION. SINCE THE INDOCHINESE CE PROGRAM CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE FOR SOME TIME, SUCH REFUGEE INTERPRETERS WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO BE REPLACED EVERY THREE OR FOUR MONTHS. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT THE JOINT VOLAG FIELD REP WILL ALSO FIND IT NECESSARY TO ADD AN INTERPRETER TO HIS STAFF.

5. FOR BANGKOK: TO PERMIT DEPARTMENT TO CONSIDER TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT OF EDWARD ROSE PER REF A, IN CASE EMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR UNABLE TO FIND APPROPRIATE REFUGEE INTERPRETER, PLEASE GIVE DEPARTMENT ASAP YOUR BEST ESTIMATE OF COST OF TWO-WEEK TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT OF ROSE INCLUDING PAY RATE, PER DIEM AND TRAVEL COSTS.
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